

The Sacramento, San Joaquin delta is one of the richest natural resources on earth. This resource must be protected to sustain the quality of human life. Sustainability is considering the consequences of our present action on human life seven generations into the future. 1. Presently, humans are destroying and wasting the freshwater resources of our rivers.

In California, industrial agriculture and expansive urbanization is destroying the land. Suburban sprawl located within one of the nations most dangerous flood plains is unacceptable. By placing development within flood plains, human life is put in danger. We support protecting the delta ecosystem, Chinook salmon fishery. We must find ways to restore the wild food supplies of California. Conserving water by not producing monsoon crops and suburban sprawl in the desert, will make new dam, water diversion construction unnecessary. Currently, 70% of all of the water generated in the mountains of CA, goes to the deserts of San Joaquin valley, San Fernando valley, Los Angeles and San Diego.

Dams, water diversion, levee systems are temporary fixes to controlling a flood plain and establishing cities in the desert. Water control mega projects cost hundreds of billions of dollars in construction and maintenance costs. The three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China cost 40 billion to build. Construction of the three gorges dam forced millions of Chinese from their ancestral homes. By 2050, china will complete a mega project costing 50 billion to move water north from the Yangtze into dry areas around Beijing. 1. This mega project will cease the flow of the Yangtze into the pacific ocean.

California is currently enacting similar non sustainable mega projects. Only one major river in California flows freely, the smith river in Del Norte county. California has contributed to the loss of the Colorado river discharge into the pacific ocean through water waste in industrial agriculture and urban growth. Because of water waste, pollution and over fishing, the pacific ocean between Baja California and Mexico is a dead zone. The capital of California sits in a flood plane created by the convergence of the Sacramento and American rivers. The weak levee systems of the delta are futile in pushing against the ocean to the west, and freshwater to the east.

In placer county, a dam on the north fork of the American river would establish the conditions for a disaster. Auburn dam on the north fork of the American river would be 700 feet tall, using more concrete than the hoover dam, creating the 4th deepest lake on earth. Three faults exist beneath the auburn dam site. These faults could be affected by this dramatic addition of weight. One side of the river canyon is composed of porous rock, not stable enough to sustain a 5 earthquake. If auburn dam fails, the catastrophic flooding produced would be the worst civilian disaster in united states history. 2.

If Auburn dam is constructed, 50 miles of the middle and north fork american river canyons would be inundated. Overall, 15,000 acres would be destroyed. The entire middle and north fork canyons are designated as aquatic diversity management area, high diversity of species, and a natural river. Ceders and onion creek are part of the north fork watershed and designated as significant natural areas, protected old growth forest, managed forest, and native trout habitat. 3. If the auburn dam is built, folsom south canal would be enlarged to divert 3000 square feet per second. 3000 square feet is the average annual flow per second of the lower american river. 2.

Beside the environmental and human side effects, the auburn dam is not feasible economically. 12 million acre feet is diverted annually by Oroville, Shasta, Bryant and trinity dams. Auburn dam would add only 300,000 acre feet, or 2% more water to the current water diversion system. Annual flow of the american river is 2 million acre feet, 1.8 million acre feet is already diverted. Auburn dam does not secure enough water to justify destroying one of the last natural areas in California.

Proposed reservoirs on the sacramento and san Joaquin rivers are located on adjacent valleys. This land is oak woodland, grassland, and rangeland already being utilized by California citizens. If we flood our own people, we will be enacting the same mistakes as china. Massive

pumps burning fossil fuels transport the water away from the rivers into reservoirs, adding to global heating and pollution. If humans continue burning fossil fuels, forest, at present rates, dams will become obsolete as snow diminishes.

Suburban sprawl destroys freshwater supplies. Instead of destroying rivers and riparian forest to temporarily suburban sprawl, we need to conserve water, and exist sustainable. California cities and suburbs waste over 9 million acre feet of water annually just on lawns. This waste will increase by 1.2 million acre feet annually according to present rate of consumption. 3. This is enough water to completely drain the American, Sacramento and Feather rivers water discharge annually. All freshwater is a necessity of life and should not be wasted. No more dams and massive water diversion projects, we need to conserve water and restore fisheries.

Dam construction necessitates massive amounts of concrete, steel and fossil fuel burning machines. Global heating increases the amount of water in the ocean. As glaciers melt, the water flows to the ocean, where it can be evaporated at the equator into storms.

Rising ocean levels will destroy the agriculture and development of the central valley and bay area of California. Before the end of the century, sea levels will rise 1-5 meters from 2000.

4.5. Stress on tidewater levees in the bay and delta will increase. The agricultural land in the valley and Sacramento, San Joaquin river delta has subsided from years of industrial crop and animal production, many areas are 20 feet below sea level. As the oceans rise three to fifteen feet in the next 75 years from melting glaciers, the pumps in the delta will be flooded with salt water, ruining the fresh water for 75% of California residents. All the development and agricultural land is protected by levees based upon 19-20th century models for weather patterns. Global heating changes the weather and will create storms not anticipated in the building of levees and dams.

Hardest hit will be the south bay. Most of Santa Clara county has dropped 14 feet in elevation as the ground water was pumped in the 1940s to 60s to drive agriculture and urbanization. Oakland, SF airports, highway 101, and dozens of water treatment plants will be flooded by rising ocean levels caused by global heating.

If humans do not build cities and homes in flood plains, then most dams and levees become unnecessary. By placing human cities in flood plains, we become dependent upon industrial water diversion, levees and dams. Covering millions of acres with asphalt creates massive amounts of polluted water runoff entering watersheds. Storm water runoff causes flooding, soil erosion and loss of property. Paving over millions of acres destroys our aquifers.

As water falls from mountains it seeks the lowest elevation. Dams, levees, water diversion cannot repeal a law of nature. Floods are an act of God, flood damage is an act of man.

Designating the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta as a federal wild and scenic river, state park, will remedy the problems of flood plain development. The delta has the holding capacity for water. Natural areas store water and recharge aquifers. Hundreds of thousands of acres must be protected in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta as freshwater wetlands and estuary.

Less than 4% of the old growth forest of California remain. Less than 1% of the grasslands and wetlands remain. 2. If humans continue burning forest and fossil fuels at the present rate, the Sierra snow pack will decrease by 90%. Suburban sprawl development and dam and water diversion mega projects have scarred the land, we must protect natural resources. By establishing the Sacramento and San Joaquin river delta as a state park, non sustainable suburban growth will be limited. Water conservation and protection of natural areas limit our dependence upon pollution and energy intensive water diversion.

When in the course of human events, nature is destroyed to the brink of extinction, it becomes necessary to protect the last remaining natural areas. The natural areas of the delta have been devastated. The delta must be protected as a national or state park to permanently secure a high quality of life for ourselves and future generations.

Forest and watershed preserves generate the air, water and soil necessary for human life. Natural areas perform valuable work for humans. Plants and trees photosynthesize, inhaling

carbon dioxide during the day and exhaling oxygen at night. Humans inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Plants and trees filter pollution out of the air, their roots stabilize the soil. Forests hold moisture and nutrients in the soil. Grasslands and wetlands control flood and drought. Natural areas purify the air, water, soil. The work of natural areas keeps the temperature of earth within livable boundaries. Natural areas filter and store rain, replenishing groundwater supplies. When land is protected, the purity and abundance of fresh water and air increases. When a natural area is deforested, the water and air cycle is interrupted and filtration and storage diminishes. Old growth forest perform more work for humans than the secondary growth of cut forest. Old growth forest sustain more biological diversity than secondary growth.

The Sacramento and San Joaquin river areas still contain hundreds of tributaries, old growth oak woodland, riparian forest, grasslands and wetlands. The delta contains ecosystems which perform valuable work for humans and all life. Protect the last remaining natural areas in the delta and continue receiving the benefits of their work.

The Sacramento-san Joaquin delta still supports biological diversity; mallard, pin tail, wood duck, Canada goose, tri color black bird, red winged black bird, phoebe, American coot, great blue heron, snowy egret, river otter, Chinook salmon, steelhead, American shad, striped bass, lamp ray, golden carp, beaver, coyote, muskrat, freshwater clam, mussels, oyster, whales, raccoon; trees including, willow, cottonwood, black walnut, valley oak, interior live oak, sycamore, alder.

Forests, wetlands, grasslands, watersheds are valuable to humans. Trees are one example of natural work. On average in north America, the timber from one fifty year old tree is worth six hundred dollars when cut. If the tree is left in the ground for another fifty years instead of being cut, the single tree will produce 200,000 dollars worth of work for humans. 2. Carbon sequestration is another job performed by trees and plants. One acre of pine trees in the south east united states inhale one metric ton of carbon annually. 3. Our economic system is backwards because we do not recognize the ecological services rendered by natural areas.

Before pumps were constructed in the delta in the 1930s, to divert water to southern California, the Sacramento-san Joaquin delta was an estuary ecosystem during the summer and early fall. Estuary ecosystem supported ocean fish and birds, larger spawns of salmon, steelhead, striped bass, sturgeon. Heavy rain during the winter and spring brought freshwater from the sierra to push saltwater back to the pacific ocean. This freshwater habitat supported waterfowl, geese, beaver. Rains begin as the chinook salmon spawn in the fall. Natural state of the delta is sustainable and generates biological diversity to be harvested by humans. Native nations; paiute, maidu, miwok, traditional land is around the sacramento, american rivers and the delta. During the fall, Chinook and sockeye salmon filled the rivers and streams with millions of fish, making the rivers impossible to cross. Beginning in the late fall, migrating waterfowl darkened the sunlight when flying overhead. The land sustained native nations for at least 20,000 years in California. California is the most biologically diverse, temperate environment on earth.

California ecosystems connect ocean, temperate coastal rainforest, mountains, valleys, grassland, and rivers. During the fall and spring, billions of salmon and steelhead bring ocean nitrogen, mineral, fats, oil, protein, vitamins, into rivers. Salmon are consumed by animals or die after spawning. After salmon decay, elements release to generate forest growth. Needles of pines, redwood, and the leaves of oak throughout north California, contain a nitrogen isotope derived from salmon. Valley, blue oaks, coastal redwood, giant sequia, bristle cone pine are the oldest, tallest, largest living things on earth., all located in California. California ecosystems, catalyzed by anadromous fish, the interrelation of ocean and land, is one of the richest natural resources on earth. If the California salmon fisheries were restored, over 10 billion would be generated annually.

The natural delta has been replaced by suburban sprawl, industrial agriculture, dams and levees. Save humans from catastrophic flooding. Protect all of the primary zone in the delta as a

nature preserve. No development anywhere in the primary zone.

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